

JEWEL: I said, you know, I knew what he was thinking and that's why I tried to delicately put it that way.

MAN 1: I wouldn't necessarily say maybe.

JEWEL: But I agree in some ways. I mean I agree.

MAN 1: You don't know.

JIMMY: When was the last time you saw the gay community actually stand for something strong?

MAN 2: Paul Broussard-- that 10 years ago.

JIMMY: 10 years ago.

MAN 2: Yes.

MAN 1: Mm-hm.

MAN 2: Yes.

JEWEL: And before that--

MAN 1: And it shocked me.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: Why does it take that many people out?

JIMMY: I would argue a little different here, guys, because I would say that if we have that level of acceptance, we can afford to spread out into wider areas than simply militant gay activism, or gay activism, or however you want to label it.

JEWEL: Do you think the activism has toned down lately? I mean, that's basically what this is about is that we're not doing anything anymore.

MAN 1: I don't think so because we have so many groups out there that are doing their own--

JEWEL: What are they doing? That's the thing.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY: Everybody is so busy doing their own thing.

JEWEL: They are doing their own thing.

MAN 1: Right, bit that is actually--

MAN 2: A good thing.

MAN 1: --a virtue of our level of acceptance.

JEWEL: I understand, I agree, but there's still things we need to do.

MAN 2: Before 1960--

MAN 1: You bet.

MAN 2: --or before 19-- what was it? '79? '78? There wasn't three-- there was only like three groups. You had the Montrose Counseling Center, you had GLPC and you had this and that. Now--

JEWEL: And you know what else?

MAN 2: --we've got a gay Yellow Pages full of organizations.

JEWEL: On bankrupt, on the verge of bankruptcy because they don't have enough volunteers to support it. They don't have--

MAN 2: No, no, no, I'm talking-- I'm talking about, I'm talking about--

JEWEL: I can't make it to all of meetings I want to.

JIMMY: And the thing is, is it's the same people that are showing up at those same meetings--

JEWEL: Right.

JIMMY: --though, OK? So all we've done is we've separated and delegated everybody their own little bitty thing, but it's the same people that are showing up doing all the work, OK?

MAN 2: But-- OK.

JIMMY: So we need--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: Maybe we should get a youth movement--

MAN 2: Everybody has their own little individual.

JEWEL: Any, just a nonpartisan youth movement to get people-- kids and young people involved in the community, not necessarily politics, but the politics are part of the community.

MAN 2: I think it's a variety of activism.

JIMMY: What is?

MAN 2: It's a variety of activism. You've got different groups doing a variety of things.

JIMMY: No, what-- to do?

MAN 2: And it doesn't mean walking in the streets and carrying a sign, it's getting involved with something. I mean--

MAN 1: Getting involved with what?

MAN 2: We got people--

JIMMY: With what they believe in or are interested in.

MAN 1: All we have done is, we as a community have turned inward.

MAN 2: Let me tell you what we got here.

MAN 1: We have turned inward.

MAN 2: Let me tell you what I got here. On top of my head I have this handkerchief from the Brazos River Bottom and it talks about this denim party, and all these little organizations have had to do something with our community. That's what I'm saying. It doesn't have to be you yell and scream in the streets. There are all kinds of little organizations that have done things.

JIMMY: But see, my question is--

MAN 1: It's not that we're lazy.

JIMMY: --what?

JEWEL: Yeah, I have a problem with that word, that--

JIMMY: We are not lazy.

JEWEL: And that's why I said, I did not say that.

MAN 1: OK, OK, OK, maybe I'll rephrase it from lazy to unmotivated.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: And we're not talking about-- he's not talking about those same people.

JIMMY: I just saw Judy Reeves in here. And what is she doing? She's doing the GCAM-- what do you call it?

JEWEL: Almost single handedly.

JIMMY: Archiving.

JEWEL: Because she can't get volunteers or people involved.

JIMMY: But still, that's activism.

JEWEL: It's the same people over and over again. That's what he's saying. Then we can't get any new blood in. We're--

JIMMY: But what we have done--

MAN 1: We're getting new blood in.

JEWEL: Who? Who?

MAN 1: David.

JEWEL: Well, you know--

JIMMY: Basically--

JEWEL: It's the first time I've seen David.

JIMMY: Here's what's happening.

MAN 1: Everybody is doing their thing.

JIMMY: Everybody has separated and is doing their own little thing.

MAN 1: And what's wrong with that?

JIMMY: We no longer-- we no longer have a sense of community. That's what's wrong with us.

MAN 2: When you build it-- when you put it all together.

JEWEL: But see, and that's where the libertarians have a problem. They don't want a community.

MAN 2: When you put it all together, we do.

MAN 3: A community-- we don't want the- well, we-- no, that's not true.

JIMMY: We do not--

MAN 3: We do not regard the group as superior to the individual composers.

JEWEL: The community is superior, OK.

MAN 3: That compose it.

MAN 1: I hate to tell you, but when-- if you look at the Netherlands, you'll see what happens when queer people become part of the larger society.

JIMMY: Right.

MAN 1: They don't have a Montrose--

JIMMY: That's right.

MAN 1: Because they don't need one.

JIMMY: Right, they don't need one.

MAN 1: The things that we look forward to, like the museum. They don't have a museum because they're already in all the other museums. And that's kind of like assimilation.

JEWEL: you've lost some--

MAN 1: You lose something.

JEWEL: a piece of culture, birth culture.

MAN 2: But see, we have to at least have-- we have to have a community in ourself in order to be able to bring our-- to have our community assimilated into the larger community.

JEWEL: that's what he's saying. He doesn't want to be assimilated.

MAN 1: No I don't,

JEWEL: wants to keep some of that--

MAN 1: Yes, I do.

JEWEL: separated.

JIMMY: Individuality.

MAN 3: But, you know--

JEWEL: we kind of resent people moving into the Montrose who aren't gay. [LAUGHS]

JIMMY: Well, absolutely. You're right. I don't--

MAN 1: Especially the intolerant ones.

JIMMY: But what's happening--

MAN 2: I don't mind straight people moving into the community--

JIMMY: As long as they act gay.

MAN 2: I mind jerks.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 3: Some of the--

MAN 2: I'm very tolerant of straight people as long as they can act gay in public.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: But what we're doing-- but what we're doing is that, like he has all the names of-- but, you know what? If you go and you contact all those organizations, and you actually get a list of all of the people that are actively participating, you'll find the same names over, and over, and over, and over again.

MAN 2: I don't think so.

JIMMY: We as a--

MAN 2: We have people who work at the Bering Care. I've never worked at the Bering Care, except I've done a few shows there once in a while. But we have a lot of people that work and I don't see them all the time. And that's individuality. Everybody's doing their own little thing, but we're doing it as a community together.

JIMMY: Really?

JEWEL: What are we doing? Well, that's what I want to know, is what have we done for our community lately? I mean, what big thing? I mean, the Pride Parade and Pride Celebration.

MAN 2: Pride Parade is a good example.

JEWEL: Yeah?

MAN 2: Pride Parade, because it wasn't all bars going down the street.

JEWEL: Right, I know this.

MAN 2: It was not all bars. It was not all churches going down the street. It was not all--

MAN 1: There were more churches than bars.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

MAN 2: Different kinds of organizations.

JEWEL: Don't stomp.

MAN 3: Which was a good step, I think. I think that was a good step.

MAN 2: And we've been doing that and we've been building on that for years. Like I said, in 1978, I think it was, a town hall meeting, they had like three organizations. Now you have a choice of organizations.

JEWEL: Is that where we want to stop?

MAN 3: But the thing is--

MAN 2: We don't want to stop there.

MAN 3: --what are those organizations? And maybe you're-- I'm not communicating what I'm saying.

JEWEL: Why is it that the community center is about to die? Why is it that they're on the verge of bankruptcy every day? If these groups--

MAN 1: Because they screwed up the way they put it together.

JEWEL: --are out there doing good things-- if these guys are out doing good things, why not some of these good things helping a community center? Why can't I find these good things these people have done? All I really see these good people doing, and this is just-- it's not that I believe that's all they do, but all I really see is they produce shows, they go to dinners, and they spend money on AIDS. That's all I really see. Well, there's a lot more people out there in this community than the people who have AIDS.

Now, you know, how-- I have no problem with the AIDS issue in any way or form.

MAN 1: You have worked in the AIDS community for a long time.

JEWEL: But I don't have AIDS. And a lot of people I know don't have AIDS. We're not benefiting anything from everybody out there giving their money to AIDS. It's time that we started spending some of our money in our community.

MAN 1: Yes.

JEWEL: With a bookstore just failed. We lost Inklings. Inklings was a wonderful lesbian bookstore that was not just a sexual toy bookstore. It was a decent bookstore. And we lost it because it just didn't have enough business. And we're letting these businesses go out because we're not supporting them. Now, see, he's talking on a--

JIMMY: He who?

JEWEL: I'm sorry, Don talks-- Don has been talking on a political level. And what I want to get down to is that level just below that, the level where we want to hang on to that culture. And what do we need to do that? We have to teach that culture--

JIMMY: That above, not below politics.

JEWEL: Yes. Below, right, not above. But how do we get that passed on to the children but they come below us? They're not-- Don said at my house the other day that he talked to somebody didn't know about Stonewall.

JIMMY: Oh, oh, absolutely.

JEWEL: Don't know about Stonewall.

JIMMY: All the time.

MAN 2: Listen--

JEWEL: Now--

MAN 2: Last night--

MAN 1: Last night we were talking about that.

MAN 2: He and I were at Lobo and-- me and Merlin were at Lobo, and there were people who didn't know who Frank Kameny was, who had no idea who Ray Hill was.

JIMMY: They need to turn in their card if they didn't know who.

JEWEL: No, we're doing something wrong.

MAN 1: It's easy to give back a toaster oven.

MAN 2: But you know what? Do you know who I blame for them not knowing who Ray Hill is or Frank Kameny or Barbara Gittings?

MAN 1: Who?

MAN 2: Us.

MAN 1: Well.

MAN 3: OK, darling.

MAN 2: It is our responsibility.

JEWEL: That's what I was going to say. It's our responsibility to pass our culture on.

JIMMY: I'm sorry to keep pointing the finger at y'all.

MAN 3: That's OK.

JEWEL: Now, I know that GCAM is trying to do something so that they can get set up and they can pass our history route. And I also want to say that that's a thing that I'm getting involved in and I have a feeling that that's going to be a lot more important someday than it is now. So I really think that it's our fault these people, these young people coming up, don't know about these things. The hatchlings don't know.

JIMMY: And GCAM is the Gulf Coast Archival Museum for GLBT history.

JEWEL: We're not just sitting around, talking to them, passing on our culture. It's like we want to maintain it, but we're doing nothing to do that. We're just taking one day at a time. We're not planning down the road. We're not looking for things. We're just bored. Like I said, we're-- just seems like everybody is just teetering on bankruptcy. And what are we doing?

MAN 3: That's not true forever, though.

JEWEL: I don't know.

MAN 3: Especially non-profit organizations always live a hand-to-mouth existence, not just in the gay community,

MAN 2: But the thing is, is that-- we're a group of people that-- I hate to be stereotypical, but we're-- I'm an intelligent person. You're an intelligent person. Why can't we--

MAN 1: I hope I am.

MAN 2: --exactly. Why is it that we cannot formulate a plan and work in coalition to be able to bring about the things that we agree on? And that's what me and Joel were talking about last week. We're so busy fighting over the things that we disagree with in general, in general purpose--

JIMMY: And how do you know that everyone will come up with the same idea to accomplish even our common goals?

MAN 2: But you know what? We won't know until we try.

JEWEL: That's right. We won't know until we discuss it.

MAN 2: And through discussion, if we're all reasoned people, we can come to a common ground to be able to work from.

JEWEL: And there are no brighter, more clever people than gay people. (CHUCKLING) There are no better.

MAN 2: Yeah, I'll put the--

JEWEL: No brighter and no cleverer.

MAN 2: I'll put the disclaimer on that about--

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL: I'm telling you. I'm talking about gay people, not gay persons, individuals. But as a group, look at our history as far as who's been gay in history. We are a clever and smart, bright people.

MAN 3: We're very creative, absolutely.

JEWEL: And we should be able to put something together. I mean-- and I just don't think we're thinking in those directions. We're thinking inside the box. I don't think we're thinking outside the box.

JIMMY: OK, with that, I need to take a break here and remind folks that they are listening to After Hours, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. We'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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JIMMY: And the-- I've got a song by Sara Golden. This is going out to Junior out there, who's listening. He's one of my MBBs. And, yes, Junior, you did hear this in the afternoon.

MAN 1: And Fidela.

JIMMY: What?

MAN 1: And Fidela.

JIMMY: Infidela?

MAN 1: It's for-- and for Fidela and Taurus. It's for Fidela and Taurus too.

JIMMY: Fidela and Taurus.

MAN 1: Right. I'll tell you about in a minute.

JIMMY: OK, OK. Wow.

MAN 2: More later on that.

JIMMY: This is Sarah Golden from her brand new CD called *Truth* and it's my favorite song. Well, I've got lots of favorite songs, but this is my favorite song this week. It's "I Love You More Than JELL-O. And you're hearing it right here on After Hours,

[GUITAR STRUMMING]

And now something for Rainbow.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Doug Stevens in the out band with a dedication there to big to--

MAN 2: To a bunch of people.

JIMMY: OK, yeah, Big Roy, yeah, we can do that.

[LAUGHTER]

And to Rainbow it's "White Trash" by Doug Stevens and The Out Band. Now, I hope Big Roy is listening because it's time to do a giveaway. Yes, yes. We at After Hours--

MAN 2: Yeah, he heard.

JIMMY: Is he screaming? Hey.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 2: No, we're not giving you away, darling.

JIMMY: No, no, uh-uh. Nobody gives Patrick away. Uh-uh. No. Hunter wouldn't-- Hunter wouldn't like to--

MAN 3: It would be kind of cute.

JIMMY: Whew. Would be kind of hot I think.

MAN 3: I think--

[LAUGHTER]

I think Patrick might get a little upset--

JIMMY: Yes.

MAN 3: --if we gave away his husband.

JIMMY: We have a DVD of *Big Eden* provided by Wolf Video. There's nice folks over there who didn't get my last name Right, but, hey, what news?

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL: Is there something into that?

JIMMY: Yeah, I know. So we've got a DVD--

MAN 3: I get used to that sort of thing.

JIMMY: --especially for caller number four-- four, Big Roy. That's caller number four at 713-526-5738. 713-JAM-KPFT. That's caller number four gets the DVD of *Big Eden* and it's just a wonderful, heartwarming movie. Yeah, it's a fantasy. We know. But now it's time to get back to Jewel.

MAN 3: We can't paint.

JIMMY: Hey.

MAN 1: And we're back.

JEWEL: We're having-- we're not stopping talking just because you're not here.

[LAUGHTER]

No, we're on four subjects away but, I think we lost Dan in a parking lot. I don't know where Dan went.

MAN 1: They just let him back in the door. He locked himself out of the building.

JEWEL: Oh, OK. So he'll be in here in a second.

MAN 1: In a second.

JEWEL: You know, while we were off, we were talking-- of course, we were talking. It's like, you can't just walk away from this mic like this kind of conversation and not continue talking. And we were talking out lobby and, you know, I was telling him, I said-- I asked if Dan left, because I thought, well, this really doesn't affect Dan because he doesn't believe in the bringing together, he believes in the individual. And we're talking about, let's take the community as bigger than the individual for a while. Basically, aren't we? Let's pay more attention to the community. We're not paying enough attention to the general community.

It's kind of like what I think of the-- if you have a community and you value that, you want to protect those cultural-- because that's what it is. We're a culture and we want to keep some of those things that make us special, different than another culture. But we also want to blend in. I mean, I can see any other culture in the United States having that same feeling, that we're different. We want to keep that and honor that, but we also want to be the same as everybody else.

MAN 2: Well we want-- my mentality on that is that we need to, yes, put value on the individual, but have we not lost the value of the community?

MAN 3: My response would be that you cannot have a valuable community until you have valuable individuals. No, indeed, the individuals must value themselves so that they have that kind of self esteem and interest in the world around them that will lead them to want to be a part of a community and to promote that community.

JEWEL: [INAUDIBLE]

MAN 3: Basically, if you have a community full of people who suck, the community will suck.

JEWEL: Well then you're getting into how people were brought up. What kind of culture they're from, because some cultures don't have a lot of value for volunteering or being part of things like that.

MAN 3: Well, yeah, but they also, you also just have the-- if you set a culture that runs contrary to human nature, then you will produce a culture full of red bulbs.

JEWEL: Right, well--

MAN 3: [CHUCKLES] You know?

JEWEL: In essence, if things were to be your utopia, it would probably take several generations to teach, to reteach the kind of philosophy you're feeling about. It would-- to get them out of this place where everybody is shooting each other on the street, invading each other's privacy and property, and everybody's out for each other, and make it more that Utopian society. Wouldn't it take generations to actually teach that out of the children today?

MAN 3: Hard to say. It simply strikes me as a--

JEWEL: I mean, you can't just walk into a room and tell somebody, you're going to be this. They have to learn to be this.

MAN 3: Sure, but why should that stop us from trying? Why should that stop us from becoming the kind of people that we want to be?

JEWEL: There. I think you're right about that.

MAN 3: Even in spite of what the society is doing.

JEWEL: I think you're absolutely right about that, and that's why I think that what we have here is too many parties. I think that you have every right to have that feeling, but I think that what we should do is honor those feelings in you, like your society, your individual. Honor those feelings in you. Understand that everybody's not going to be like that or want to be like that.

MAN 3: OK.

JEWEL: And stop separating ourselves into little libertarian groups and little this group and little that group, and come back to the big family, come back to the big family instead of being so diverse. And I think sometimes what we do is we just go off in another little group so we can have our own little group, not because it's really needed or because it really has to be there. I mean you really need-- I mean, what is the libertarians aren't getting? The same thing the rest of us aren't getting. Do you see what I'm saying?

MAN 3: I'm not sure.

JEWEL: Well you're not getting what you want. I'm not getting what I want. So we're not getting the same things. You want your liberty and you want your freedom to live your life.

MAN 3: Right.

JEWEL: Basically that's what I want. And what I think is that-- and I'm not like attacking you. I see you backing away. Sometimes I get a little perverse. I'm sorry.

MAN 2: Don't we all?

JEWEL: But what I see is like that it's so diverse, these little groups that have cut off from us, and that it has weakened us as a community. And that these groups are actually-- I was talking to Gigi down here by Bisexuals when I was down here last time I was down here. And I asked him, I said, well, what is it that bisexuals want?

[CHUCKLING]

I mean, I could tell you what gay people want. They want a right to marry. They want a right to have insurance. They want a right to have this that we've been denied. But what are bisexuals denied?

MAN 3: Well that's an interesting question. I was with them for a while and I eventually found it got old and left.

JEWEL: Well that's what I mean. That's what I mean about some of these groups.

MAN 3: Because they were talking about a bisexual politics which struck me as--

JEWEL: So we're going to turn everybody bisexual.

MAN 3: Far more oxymoronic that gay Republicans

[CHUCKLING]

JEWEL: They're going to turn everybody bisexual.

MAN 3: Oh my God.

MAN 2: OK, hold on. There's my--

JEWEL: I don't want to turn everybody liberal. I'm sure Don doesn't want everybody--

MAN 2: Oh, I had to tease you, Don. I had to tease you.

JIMMY: There's my entry back into something I wanted to address. Everybody-- Jewel and I were talking again in the break about-- she said, well, you know, you seem reasonable. I seem like a reasonable person. But she could not forgive the fact that I am a member of a party that stamped--

JEWEL: That stomped on the back of my head for 30 years.

MAN 3: That's very hard to overcome. No doubt about that.

JIMMY: Here's the thing, we had an opportunity in 1992 to have everything we wanted according to a president who openly campaigned for our vote. We had a Democratic controlled House, Senate, and the president, see? All three were all under the same party, and all three of them, you know, espoused to that they were on our side. They could have done-- they could have put in the through. They could have done the things that's being pointed on fingers that the Republicans or whoever. And I hate getting into the label of Republicans and Democrats. The people that are in power.

MAN 3: If you depend on politicians to get your life, you're out of luck.

JIMMY: But, but, but, my point--

JEWEL: They go by popular poll.

JIMMY: But my point is that the Democratic Party says that they value our right to be able to live the way we want to live. But yet, when they had the opportunity to put the rubber where it meets the road--

MAN 1: They blew it.

JIMMY: They blew it.

JEWEL: Not only did they blow it. They didn't do it-- they didn't blow it all by themselves. There was such a hoopla when he wanted to sign in that get rid of that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

MAN 3: There was the whole problem right there.

MAN 2: No, no, you got that wrong. That was originally forbidden entire-- no, it was originally forbidden entirely.

JEWEL: Right.

MAN 2: He was going to eliminate that entirely.

JEWEL: Right.

MAN 2: And the Don't Ask, Don't Tell was the compromise.

JEWEL: Right.

MAN 3: And became the front page story.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY: And what's even worse is, he actually made the plight of gays and lesbians in the military worse.

MAN 2: Yes, yes. He did.

JIMMY: He made by--

JEWEL: I'm sure that wasn't his point.

JIMMY: --the policy.

JEWEL: I'm sure that wasn't his point.

MAN 2: What?

JEWEL: Do you think the man did this on purpose because he wanted to--

MAN 2: No, I'm saying, I'm saying that the man--

JEWEL: He made a mistake because he followed the popular rule of the country.

MAN 2: I'm saying that the man did what-- promised everybody whatever they wanted to get him into power, and then he abandoned us.

JEWEL: Not like Bush or Nixon or any other politician.

MAN 3: It's not like other presidents on either party have never done that.

JIMMY: Absolutely, absolutely, and I'm not-- I'm not saying--

MAN 2: You're right on the money.

JIMMY: And I'm not saying that the Republicans are any better. But what I'm saying is, is that, don't hold the Democratic Party as the label of being "The Democratic Party" as giving them your blind support.

JEWEL: No, I think what we do is--

JIMMY: But we do.

JEWEL: In survival, no I don't. I don't think we do. I think that's how you see it. But what we do, is we have to pick the lesser of two evils.

JIMMY: The people--

JEWEL: And I believe the Democrats are the lesser of two evils until you can manage to control your group without the religious right. Until the Republicans and moderates--

MAN 1: I always like to-- I always like to say, the lesser of evils is still evil.

JEWEL: It still is, but I'm going to pick the one that hurts me the least.

MAN 2: I prefer to pick my-- the best friend I have in the political arena.

JIMMY: What he is in the process of saying, I agree with wholeheartedly.

JEWEL: What? Say. What?

JIMMY: And that is that you pick out the people that support us, we put them in power, we support them with everything we have, and the people that don't, we ignore them, whether they're Democrats, Republicans, independents, or whatever.

MAN 1: Political advertisement. Vote libertarian.

JIMMY: Whatever it is, it does-- to me it should not matter--

MAN 1: I had to say that.

JIMMY: --to me whether it's a Republican or a Democrat.

JEWEL: I agree. I agree. That's what I wanted to hear.

JIMMY: The only thing that matters to me is the fact, do you agree with me? Do you agree with my issues? Are you sensitive to what I am saying? And will you give me the same rights and the same privileges that you have?

JEWEL: But see, that's my problem again here. Is, OK, so this guy says, yeah, I can do that for you, but I'm going to burn down every tree in this country. I'm going to chop down every tree. I'm going to drill oil in the most pristine places in this country while I give you what you want. Can I take what I want from that man and watch him destroy the world?

JIMMY: Absolutely not, because--

JEWEL: Then we have to worry about what else is this guy going to do.

JIMMY: --we have responsibility. Right. We have responsibility.

MAN 2: And you are assuming that is a truthful statement.

JEWEL: Right, we're assuming that he's making promises he's going to keep.

JIMMY: Well, yeah, but, if we cultivate candidates, if we show that we will support wholeheartedly people that support us, we can then cultivate people that are sensitive to the environment, that are sensitive to other issues that are just good for us. We can do that. But we have to have a starting point. Right now, all that is happening with the majority of the gay and lesbian community is that we're ignoring that-- we're ignoring a lot of the other things that they stand for.

MAN 3: Well, you have to realize that in the very beginning of the Stonewall Rebellion era, from the late-- all actually, yeah, I'd say starting from the late '60s on through the '70s, there was nowhere else for gay people to go except the Democratic party. They were their only home.

JEWEL: Right, we weren't accepted anywhere else. It's only been recently the GOP has been opening its doors.

MAN 3: The libertarians got started in '72 but they were pretty much unknown.

JEWEL: Yeah, geeky little guys with pen protectors, pocket protectors.

[CHUCKLING]

MAN 3: Well, yeah, we are computer geeks.

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL: Teasing you.

MAN 3: But we really-- we didn't even get into all 50 states I think until 1980. And so, as far as I'm concerned, the Libertarian Party is the best friend we have in the political arena and I could probably spend a whole program telling you why.

MAN 2: But you know what, but going--

MAN 3: The point is that, for years and years and years, there was nothing else but the left that would support gay people, that were good to gay people. And it creates a mem and a mindset that is extremely hard to break.

JEWEL: Yeah.

MAN 3: And you do have to-- it has-- it is something now that can be proven that this kind of blind devotion to the left is very self-destructive.

MAN 2: Oh, sure.

MAN 3: I mean, I can give you just a tiny little example--

JEWEL: They don't have to do anything. They'll just be there.

MAN 3: Yeah, I can give you a real tiny example. Mayor Brown passed this civil rights ordinance that said government employees and contractors can't discriminate against gay people. A cool idea. Libertarians support that, because it applies to government.

JEWEL: Right.

MAN 3: OK. It had-- it came out in the election that Brown was a pretty flaky guy. He'd done a lot of lousy stuff and he really probably maybe shouldn't have been elected. But we were told through [? Handnet ?] a lot of the [? Handnet ?] people said, well you have to support him because he was nice to us. That's why they have sought our vote.

JEWEL: Well, see I was one of those people who wanted to support him because he supported us.

MAN 3: So they can gain power. They aren't interested in our goals. Politicians aren't interested in goals, they're interested in their own.

JEWEL: I wasn't aware of that other part. And I've kept my ears to the ground. I wasn't aware of any bad thing he shouldn't have been elected for.

MAN 3: Yeah, he was--

JEWEL: I mean, I'm aware that there's no clean politician.

MAN 3: Right.

JEWEL: But I wasn't aware that there was something serious enough he shouldn't have been elected.

MAN 3: There was a whole bunch of-- it was, I don't think it was anything crooked, so much as it was like flaming ineptitude that was going on. Budget screw-ups. The budget screw-ups that we have now learned were really [INAUDIBLE] This choo choo train, that silly choo choo train they're building on Main Street, which is going to be just worthless.

MAN 2: What's silly about that?

MAN 3: Oh, it's hopeless, hopelessly expensive.

JEWEL: Only if you live down that way. It's like the tollway, I never use it, but I pay for it every day.

MAN 2: No you don't. No you don't. You do not pay for the toll.

JEWEL: Not the tollway, the HOV lanes.

MAN 2: The HOV lanes, yes.

JEWEL: I don't get to use them, but I pay for them every day.

MAN 2: You pay for them. I can't use them because my career doesn't allow me to commute with anyone else. I'm a field tech. I drive-- I have to drive around all by myself in my car all day long. That's how I make my living, going from office to office fixing copiers.

JEWEL: So there was some stuff amiss. See, now I didn't see any of that. And I keep up with I mean, the news especially.

MAN 3: I don't remember it now because I was just planning-- I was not paying a big attention to the race.

JEWEL: So maybe it's not that we just blindly supported him, but that a lot of us were not aware of that.

MAN 3: That's also a possibility. But I'm talking about those who were-- the things came out and the response was-- from various people-- you have to support Brown because he passed our ordinance, therefore we're obliged. And this is-- tells us what their motive is in providing support.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: --upfront. We put him in office. That was our part. [CHUCKLES] We didn't owe him anything after we got him in office. If he goofed up and we don't--

MAN 2: But that was not the way it was presented.

JEWEL: --owe him anything after.

MAN 3: Everybody says that, everybody says that he was just, has been so great to this community, but it was his action when he was police chief that started the death of Montrose as we knew it.

JEWEL: Yeah you were talking about that there too.

MAN 3: OK? Well that's one, there's all kinds of-- so that everybody understands what I'm talking about. When he was the police chief under Cathy Whitmire, he ordered that Westheimer be shut down all the way up to Dunn Levy.

JEWEL: When they stopped all cruising.

MAN 3: And had shut it down to one lane each direction and killed off basically the Montrose party life down in the Montrose area. And then--

MAN 1: I thought that was a good thing.

JIMMY: I agree.

MAN 3: The day he was inaugurated, the day he was inaugurated, he had the police department down with tape measures out in front of The Mining Company.

JEWEL: Really?

MAN 3: Yes, he did. They had tape measures and they were measuring how far people were parking away from the curb.

JEWEL: Yeah.

MAN 3: And they were not ticketing them, they were towing cars that were over 18 inches away from the curb. This was the day he was inaugurated. This man says one thing, but his actions, I have not seen his actions support--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: Let me say--

JIMMY: He was the first sitting mayor who was ever in the Pride Parade.

MAN 3: Right, that's true. That is a plus. What I'm just saying is we cannot blindly support these people.

JEWEL: Cathy Whitmire was never-- not when she was mayor.

MAN 2: No, no she never did.

JEWEL: No not when she was there.

JIMMY: Is that right?

MAN 2: No, she never did. As a matter of fact, she not really very supportive at all.

JEWEL: What the other part of this, Don--

MAN 3: She wasn't supportive. She toured--

JEWEL: Is that we may not know that 15 people called and said they couldn't get up and down this road and they went out there and did their job.

MAN 2: That's it.

JEWEL: Because these people weren't parking close enough to the street, so they were having trouble getting up and down the road. Now I've been in that place.

MAN 3: Now when was this?

JEWEL: I didn't say it did happen. I said it could have happened.

MAN 3: The day he was elected, just so happened--

JEWEL: They don't care if he's been elected.

MAN 3: He had an influx of people-- the first day he's inaugurated-- complaining about the fact that they could not get up and down?

JEWEL: You think he has a hand on every little squirt job in town? Surely, you don't believe he's involved--

JIMMY: Oh, please. He was he's the former police chief. He failed in every job he had prior to being mayor of Houston. And I don't think he's done a good job of that either.

MAN 2: The main thing, the main thing, the main thing that all this should really relate to is just that we cannot blindly support any particular politician.

(ALL) Right.

We have to look to our own selves--

JEWEL: We found one thing we all agree on.

MAN 2: Yeah, we have to look to ourselves and to our needs and we have to do what we need to do to fulfill those needs, because no one else will do it for us.

MAN 3: What are you rolling your eyes about in there?

MAN 1: Oh, nothing. I've just been trying to get something out for about 20 minutes now.

JEWEL: Well, do it now, girl.

MAN 1: The point, the thing that gets me is something you said earlier. The idea that we have to cultivate stuff within things like the Republican Party in order to get what we want because we have to get in there and do stuff and say, OK.

MAN 2: How do you blow away a rock? How do you--

MAN 1: Unfortunately, one of the problems is-- one of the problems is that people that while we stand there and say that, all too often we-- they'll say, oh, they'll say, yeah, we'll support you once we get in there. However, all too often, they end up toeing the party line. And that's Republican or Democrat. And they don't think as-- it's all too often that the politicians don't think as individuals.

MAN 3: So don't-- so don't you think it's about time--

JEWEL: On the basis of what their party says and nothing else.

MAN 3: So don't you think it's about time we just reward the people that actually do have independent minds?

MAN 1: Yeah.

JEWEL: Yeah.

MAN 3: And most of all, we need to learn to not depend on politics for our freedom, for our rights.

MAN 1: And start electing our own people.

JEWEL: I saw Robin Williams on TV the other day, he said something I thought really funny. He said, politicians are elected by 95% idiots and and 5% geniuses. And I thought, I must be one of those geniuses.

[LAUGHTER]

But you know, I got to thinking about that. There are a lot of "bohunks" out there barely graduated high school and they're the people who are voting. It's not necessarily-- and these people have to, you know, that's how most of these governments run is by polls, by samplings to see how people out here feel. Well the people in Kansas feel one way. The people in Houston, or New York City, or San Francisco feel another way. But there are a lot more of them. So they follow those polls. If that poll-- they take these polls and they get a high reading, no, we don't like this. Then they don't do it. And that may be very well something that they damn well should do, but they're not going to do it because the people, the majority of people out in the country don't like it. Well we need to educate those people too.

JIMMY: I think something else that me and Dan would agree on is that the sole purpose of government is to protect people. Would you agree with that?

MAN 3: Protect your rights the life, liberty, pursuit of happiness.

JIMMY: OK, so we can agree on that.

MAN 3: That's part of it.

MAN 2: Or at least what it's supposed to be about.

MAN 3: Yeah.

JIMMY: But you know, but if we hold people's feet to the fire on those principles, we have to become principled in our issues.

JEWEL: But problem is that we've made everything subjective. We've made everything subjective by the choices that we make. We agree that we should have the freedom for life, and the freedom for liberty to do this and that and the other, but then we vote in people who allow abortions. Now that's not consistent with that philosophy because some people believe life begins here. Not me. But some people do believe that.

MAN 3: Well, actually, even libertarians are split on the abortion issue. So we're having to actually take it out of our platform.

MAN 2: I'm a Democrat who doesn't believe in abortion.

JEWEL: But my point is there are some things that--

JIMMY: Well, see, I'm not going to get into that--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

MAN 1: I believe choice.

JEWEL: Right. And that's what I believe in, choice. And I think that's what you're talking about.

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL: Basically, it's the freedom of choice.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY: But you know what? Educated choice.

JEWEL: Even if you want to live as a criminal, you were willing to pay the consequences for living as a criminal.

JIMMY: But only educated choice.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL: That's right.

JIMMY: The only way somebody should be able to have a choice though is if they're educated. It needs to be an educated choice.

MAN 3: And who is going to set the standards there?

JEWEL: That's the problem. Subjection, right there what I said. Everything is subjective. Liberty. What is liberty? You know, liberty in this country is a lot of things. I mean, we are holding people in prison right now with no charges.

MAN 3: That's right.

JEWEL: What is liberty in this country? I mean, we have an idea of liberty because we stood in our little classrooms when we were the good little students and taught the good thing about "The Pledge of Allegiance." But liberty is different to different people and we-- the people in power have changed it a lot lately what liberty is. And the pursuit of happiness well we all know that that's not for real.

[GASP]

JIMMY: You're kidding.

JEWEL: We all know that.

MAN 2: It's a bookstore with toys.

JEWEL: It's not out for my happiness. It's for-- generally, the older white male, generally his happiness.

MAN 1: All men are created equal but some people are more equal than others?

JEWEL: Are we done or you just need a break?

MAN 1: No, no, no, we're done.

JEWEL: Oh, we're done? Oh, my goodness. I am so sorry.

MAN 1: That's OK. This is--

JEWEL: I want to do this again.

MAN 1: This has been wonderful.

JEWEL: I want to do it for two hours.

MAN 2: And we are so wonderful.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: Yeah.

JEWEL: I want to do it for two hours, but we have another half of the show that we promised to somebody.

JIMMY: Yeah.

JEWEL: But maybe we can talk the guys into coming-- maybe this was not so bad and we can talk them into coming back?

MAN 3: I'm never-- I am never--

JEWEL: Never coming back.

MAN 3: --afraid.

JEWEL: I was going to say, he's never coming back.

JIMMY: That's what I thought you were going to say.

MAN 3: I'm never afraid of debate or dialogue.

JEWEL: What I wanted is-- what I wanted from you, Don, was the-- I wanted people that even they swore they weren't listening, you can bet they are.

MAN 3: I know. I know they are.

MAN 2: Phone's ringing off the hook.

JEWEL: I wanted them to know that--

MAN 2: Hi, Kevin.

JEWEL: --because you believed him--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 1: Do you think he woke up?

JIMMY: Note that Jewel did not say that.

MAN 1: He's in Chicago.

JEWEL: And listening by internet--

JIMMY: Yes.

JEWEL: --believe me. That I wanted people to hear you talk and to hear the sense you made. They may not agree with it, but it was sensible. And I wanted them to hear Dan talk. And I agree with Dan and I agree with you about a lot of things and that's why I think when it comes to me addressing myself as liberal, far left wing liberal, I'm going to have to be looking at that a lot more closely lately. You know, I'm going to have to really start paying attention to that, because I don't think that fits me. I think that came because of my fear of the GOP and I have to start being able to accept that it's not necessarily that way now. And if I don't do something, if I do something about it, it won't have to be that way in the future. So that's what I've been considering. So we're--

MAN 3: Just remember what I said earlier about the-- fore a long time, the left was the only place that gay people could turn to.

JEWEL: That's right.

MAN 3: There are more options now. Now it is time to let people know those options are available.

MAN 2: Yeah.

JEWEL: Well, I'll see you guys three weeks, four weeks from now on the third weekend.

JIMMY: Third Saturday of next month.

JEWEL: And we'll try to schedule Don and Dan and get people down here, and Rainbow, and see if we can do this again.

JIMMY: Good, good.

JEWEL: Thanks.

JIMMY: Good. Holding on line is Dean Becker for this week's Cultural Baggage and let's see if I can get them on here. If you will push the air button and then that button.

MAN 2: The green one?

JIMMY: Yeah, that one, yeah. It should turn red.

MAN 2: It did.

JIMMY: Hey, Dean Becker.

Dean Becker: Well, hello, Jimmy. How are you?

JIMMY: I'm just fine. How are you doing?

Dean Becker: I'm doing well, doing well on the Saturday night.

JIMMY: Great, great. So what's going on with Cultural Baggage this week?

Dean Becker: Oh, well I wanted to let folks know that we had a great show yesterday with Judge James P Gray. He spoke about the advances made by the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canada last month.

JIMMY: Yes.

Dean Becker: Where he attended, spoke to them, and helped-- I don't know if he helped in their decision making, but they've made the decision that they're going to stop arresting-- they want people to stop arresting marijuana users and to legalize the distribution of drugs to adults.

JIMMY: Yes.

Dean Becker: The churches are coming around.

JIMMY: Churches too. Yes.

Dean Becker: Yes.

JIMMY: Yes.

Dean Becker: Kind of disturbing news. There's a-- secret US bio farms are now growing experimental drugs.

JIMMY: What?

Dean Becker: Yes. Experimental plants that are engineered to produce pharmaceuticals are being grown at over 300 secret locations nationwide. That biotechnology firms are conducting experiments with corn, soy, rice, and tobacco and they just genetically manipulate the molecules so that they'll produce drugs.

JIMMY: Oh!

Dean Becker: Designed to act as vaccines or contraceptives or--

JIMMY: Oh, OK.

Dean Becker: Induce abortions, and so forth.

JIMMY: Yes.

Dean Becker: And what troubles me is that, just one mistake by one of these biotechnology companies and we'll be eating other people's prescription drugs in our cornflakes.

JIMMY: Good point. Yeah, ooh.

Dean Becker: I don't like this genetic modification.

JIMMY: [LAUGHS]

Dean Becker: They're moving much too fast for my taste. Some great news-- Thursday out of California, their Supreme Court has now backed their medical marijuana laws.

JIMMY: Great.

Dean Becker:

In a unanimous decision. Let me read a little bit here, "Californians who use or grow marijuana for personal medical use are protected from prosecution in state court as long as they have doctor's approval." The California Supreme Court decided yes on Thursday. As you're probably aware, there are various jurisdictions out there where they can grow five plants, 50 plants, 100 plants. And this Supreme Court ruling now says that all that is necessary is a doctor's recommendation and the state is going to determine a maximum number of user plants. The first review of this medical marijuana initiative, you know, it was approved in '96. The court said a medical user can be arrested.